



TailWind Tandem Club
Charlotte, NC

Volume 7, No. 8
Aug 2008

President's Message - August 2008

Mid-Tour Equipment Review

Since my 2001 Transamerica Trail tour I have added two items of equipment to my kit, an Ortlieb Ultimate 5 Classic handlebar bag and a Rack Pack Medium gear bag for my camping stuff. You can see the products at OrtliebUSA.com or thetouringstore.com. Thought you might be interested in my impressions of the new equipment. First, let's get the bad news out of the way; it doesn't improve with age. I am not even mildly satisfied with the handlebar bag. Here's why. With the bag on my bike the weight in it puts a mass high above the center of gravity that tends to induce a mild shimmy in the steering. This is not Ortlieb's fault; it's probably the size of my frame and its long head tube. Nevertheless, it means I can't carry anything but light stuff in it. I can control the shimmy with my positioning on the saddle. For all intents and purposes I could do without it although it would mean digging in the panniers more often for small items.

As far as the design of the bag is concerned it has the usual Ortlieb standard of superior quality and waterproof protection for the contents. It appears to me to be over engineered to a fault. Problems: first, it requires a very careful two-handed attempt to open it when riding. You can't use one hand to pop the top open. Ergo, to be safe you have to stop to gain entry. When closing it you must adjust the lid up or down to ensure at least one snap is in position to secure the lid closed. It's an up or down, hit or miss movement. Second, the optional map case, which is also waterproof, can be a real pain to remove as the straps that secure it to the lid of the bag have a death-grip mechanism. I'm afraid of tearing the map case itself trying to remove it from the bag. Third, the bag and map case do not have some type of mechanism to hold the lower portion of the map case to the bag. So, if you have a strong tailwind gust or you experience the wind wash from a semi the map case flops over. Lastly, every darn thing you put into the bag always makes its way straight to the bottom of and you have to go digging to get it. I guess that's why guys carry wallets and women carry purses. They like the digging exercise. Not me. The bottom line on the bag, I can do without it and have nicknamed it "Worthless." Come on Worthless, it's time to open.

Now the Rack Pack Classic gear bag is exactly the opposite -- I love it. In 2001 I used a standard Ortlieb Dry Bag. It worked great but was a Goldilocks exercise. The bag I used was too large for the gear I carried and the next smaller size was too small for my gear to fit into it. The Rack Pack solves this problem. My tent, air mattress and sleeping bag fit smoothly inside it and the roll closure system lets me compress it down to a very compact package. I carry it transversely on my rear rack, strapped down with nylon straps equipped with quick release buckles. With my gear it also has a lower silhouette than a dry bag and the weight is lower, therefore closer to the bike's CG.

Oh, how about the Keen Commuter Sandals. Fantastic! I could send home my walking shoes.

Jay Brosnan, President TWTC 08'
jbrosnan@earthlink.net
704 545-9774

<i>Table of Content: Inside this Issue</i>	
President's Message	1-2
2008 Officers	2
Aug Birthday/Anniv.	2
Income	2
Peach Pie and the Trimmings	2
Lake Norman Excursion	2
Roadways Safer – Drivers Exam	3
Hog Jam Ride	3
That Wobbling	4
Cotton Pick'n Bale Ride	4
Ride Calendar	5
Upcoming TWTC rides	6

August Featured Month Ride

Aug. 2

Go For Blood

Waxhaw, NC

www.unioncountyyredcross.org



Aug. 16

Ride for Pride

Cannonball Cycling Team

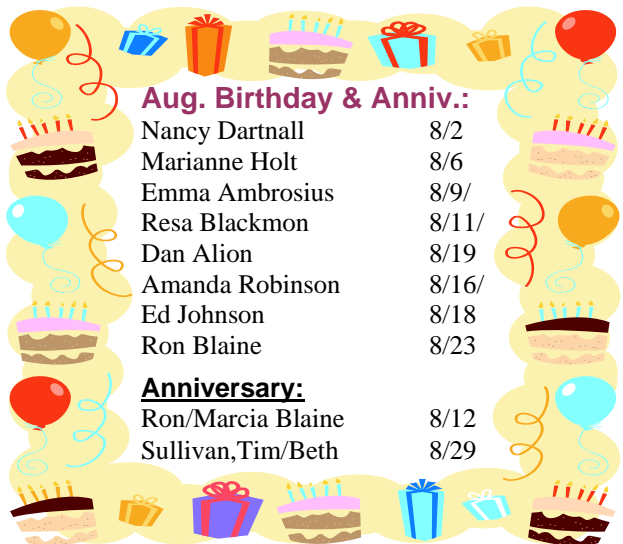
<http://www.cannonball-cycling.org/>

DOUBLE STOP

This is your club.... This is your newsletter.... Feel free to contribute....

2008 Club Officers

President	Jay Brosnan	jbrosnan@earthlink.net	704 545-9774
Vice President	Bill Murphy	wam-murphy@carolina.rr.com	704-533-4799
Ride Coordinator	John Talani	jtalani@carolina.rr.com	704-504-1875
Newsletter Editor & Sec./Treas.	Susanna Sisk	newsiesuziesisk@carolina.rr.com	704-301-5655




Aug. Birthday & Anniv.:

Nancy Dartnall	8/2
Marianne Holt	8/6
Emma Ambrosius	8/9/
Resa Blackmon	8/11/
Dan Alion	8/19
Amanda Robinson	8/16/
Ed Johnson	8/18
Ron Blaine	8/23

Anniversary:

Ron/Marcia Blaine	8/12
Sullivan, Tim/Beth	8/29

INCOME		\$1720.30
(balance forward from 07/25/08)		
June picnic/poker ride		23.00
Total Income		\$1743.30
Expenses		
NET INCOME		\$1743.30

2008 Members to-date as of 07/25/08

- Membership 08 - Jay/Mary Brosnan
 Membership 08 - Roy Peche/Nancy Dartnall
 Membership 08 - Ron/Maria Blaine
 Membership 08 - Bill/Anna Clay
 Membership 08 - Hank/Gail Cook
 Membership 08 - Steve/Pam Clark
 Membership 08 - Eric Lee/Jo Thaleimer
 Membership 08 - Bill/Joyce Murphy
 Membership 08 - Ed/Rosanna Stokes
 Membership 08 - Jim/Nancy Ford
 Membership 08 - Dan Alion/Family

Lake Norman Excursion Jul 19

Team Task on tandem made it out among some other 500 riders in Mooresville.

What I saw:

- 1) Many volunteers
- 2) Great routes
- 3) BIG signs to show the turns vs. road marking paint
- 4) Great sag food at stops and volunteers were all chippy in the heat waiting on us hand-foot
- 5) Great people to ride with
- 6) Always someone to ride with
- 7) Music at the end with lots of food (was when we got in)
- 8) Great community having cyclists on their turf

What I **didn't** see:

- 1) Motorist trying to run us over
- 2) Motorist throwing things at us
- 3) Other TailWind members at the ride...

Where the heck were ye all...we had fun without you....see ya there next yr.

JTalani, Ride Coordinator

Peach Pie Trimmings



*Congratulations are in store for
TailWind Members*

*Miss Nancy Ann Dartnall
and*

Mr. Roy Eugene Peche

*Exchanging wedding vows on
August 23, 2008.*

*May your tandem rides and adventures
find the happiness you see in each other.*



In a move to make roadways safer for cyclists

Reprinted: from <http://www.roadbikerider.com/currentissue.htm#SPIN>

Bike advocates and traffic-safety experts are proposing that driver's license exams include more questions about cycling. The effort appears to be gaining traction, with support pouring in from groups like the political action committee (MoronPAC) representing people who repeatedly fail the driver's test -- as long as any new questions replace the dreaded "How close to a fire hydrant can you park?"

What might the new questions look like?

RBR's undercover investigative team obtained a copy of the proposed exam in a daring nighttime operation involving Okay, we stood in line for 3 hours at the DMV.

Check out some of the new questions:

1. What does it mean when a cyclist in your lane sticks out his left arm?

- (a) He's preparing to turn left, so you should let him move left to make the turn
- (b) You should cut him off because he doesn't pay taxes, his shorts look stupid and you're in a hurry, dammit
- (c) What cyclist? I don't see no cyclist.

2. You hit a cyclist in the bike lane. You should:

- (a) Stop, call 911 and see if the cyclist is injured.
- (b) Drag the body and bike into the middle of the road when no one is looking.
- (c) Go home and clean the Lyrca out of your retreads.

3. Cyclists may ride 2 abreast when:

- (a) Permitted by local laws.
- (b) Satan has to buy a wooly hat and mittens.
- (c) You're out of bullets.

4. Cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as other road users.

True or false?

- (a) True.
- (b) False.
- (c) One out of 2 ain't bad.

Hog Jam Ride

Kershaw Hog Jam Ride by TailWind Tandem Club members – Charlie and Resa Blackmon

Date: Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008 (Please RSVP by Oct. 6th)

Time: 8:00 AM Sharp

Routes: 25 - 55 miles (more if requested); and they will be marked!

Start/Finish: First Baptist Church parking lot @ 210 N Matson St. (a block from Blackmon residence)

Potluck: Bring a little something for appetizers to eat after the ride and we walk two blocks for BBQ and the trimmings.

Activity after ride/eating: Go see the hogs in Kershaw and watch the festivities. Think we are kidding - we are not. Check out the Hog Jam web site: <http://www.hogjam.org/index.htm>

Hosts: Charlie and Resa Blackmon
204 S. Matson Street
Kershaw, SC 29067
PH: 803 475 2039
Email: resab@comporium.net



About "Hog Jam"

The Name Hog Jam was developed to speak to two aspects of the festival,

- 1) Hog referring to "Whole Hog" a style of barbeque; and
- 2) Jam referring to the getting together with music.

That Wobbling

Ever heard a nearby rider snarl: "Dude! Ride a straight line!"

It's disconcerting to be told your bike-handling skills aren't up to par. And it's even more alarming to be in a pack with a rider whose bike meanders from side to side.

If you're occasionally guilty of straying from the straight and narrow -- when you drink from your bottle or look behind, for instance -- here's how to ride like you're on a rail.

Find a quiet road with the white line painted a foot or so from the edge of the pavement, then do these 3 drills:

(1) Begin by simply riding on the white line without deviating to either side.

Tip! Relax your neck, shoulders, arms and even your jaw. Tight muscles fight the bike's natural slight movements and make things worse. You tend to overcorrect, and then overcorrect the overcorrections.

Tip! Don't look at the white line directly in front of your wheel. Instead, focus 30-50 feet up the road. This smoothes and straightens your bike's line and is another key to stopping the urge to correct each waver.

(2) When you can ride the line for long stretches (the feel through your wheel will let you know you're on it), try doing it as you reach for your water bottle, take a drink and return the bottle to the cage. Resist looking down. The cage location needs to become ingrained. If you have to search for it you're likely to swerve.

Tip! When taking a hand off the handlebar to reach for a bottle or something in a rear pocket, place the other hand on the bar top next to the stem. The bike will be more stable and body movements will be less likely to steer it off line.

(3) Now try looking back. The trick when glancing over your left shoulder is to relax the right arm and bend the elbow. This equalizes the force against the two sides of the handlebar, keeping the front wheel straight.

Practice these drills and you'll improve quickly. When you think you're pretty good, remember that pro roadies can ride a straight line in the confines of a fast pack, no-hands, while taking off a vest or peeling an energy bar. We're seeing it every day during coverage of the Tour de France. But don't try that on the next club ride!

Reprinted from: <http://www.roadbikerider.com/currentissue.htm#SPIN>

Note: This can go for any type of riding – tandem can be just as “straight line” and out of wack so “whatcha line dude!”. Susanna

Cotton Pick'n Bale Ride

Hosts: Bill and Joyce Murphy
Date: Saturday, October 25, 2008
Time: 9:00 am
Miles: 30 and 50 mile options; if you need less, inquire with the ride hosts in advance of the ride

Start/end Location 124 Elizabeth Drive, Stanfield, NC 28163

RSVP: Please RSVP by October 22 if you plan to attend

Food: Pot luck, everyone bring something to contribute.
Bill says bring some thing “good”.

Phone: (704) 533-4799

Email: wam-murphy@carolina.rr.com

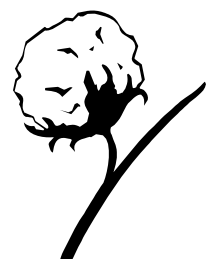
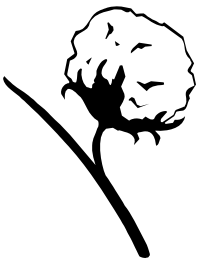
A test quiz will be on cotton so sharpen up your knowledge.
Prizes for the most answers on the quiz.

<http://historync.org/cotton.htm>

*Jump down, turn around
To pick a bale of cotton
Jump down, turn around
To pick a bale a day.*

Chorus:

*Oh Lordy, pick a bale of cotton,
Oh Lordy, pick a bale a day.*



Ride Calendar 2008

Ride Coordinator – John Talani, 704-504-1875
italani@carolina.rr.com

Date	Event	Location	Information	Contact	URL
Aug 2	Tour de Furniture	High Point, NC	Option miles benefit Red Cross	Robert 336-885-9121 raiegler@northstate.net	www.highpointredcross.org
Aug. 2	Go for Blood	Waxhaw, NC	Mile options	Leslie 704-283-7402 l1c@aol.com	www.unioncountvredcross.org
Aug. 9	BikeFest	Hillsborough, NC	Come out to see what this ride is all about.	Jeff 919-489-7753	www.tarwheels.org
Aug 16	Ride for Pride	TBA	Mile options – stay tuned		http://www.cannonballs-cycling.org/
Aug 23	Flight of the Dove	Clinton, SC	5-10, 30, 62 ml. options; Bailey Stadium, Presbyterian College		www.bikelarenscounty.com
Aug. 24	Soldier Reunion Ride	Newton, NC	Mile options	(828) 695-4317	http://www.newtonnc.gov/calendar.asp
Aug. 31	Hot 100	Wilmington, NC Moore's Creek Battlefield	Cape Fear Cyclists invite you to join them for the Hot 100	(910) 443-8086	www.capefearcyclists.org
Sep. 1	Tour de Moore	Southern Pines, NC	Pasta lunch & music by "Java Mules"; pick your poison for ride options; Sandhills Cycling Club		info@rainbowcycles.com
Sep 6	Tour de Peach	Gaffney, SC	Ride mile options		http://www.tourdepeach.com/index.html
Sep 6	Tour de Paws	Moore, SC	Mile options; ALL proceeds to benefit the Spartanburg Humane Society; 28 and 63 ml. options	Jeff; 864-316-6963 jeff@cwsinsurance.com	http://www.freewheelers.info/paws
Sep. 20	The Rollin' Round the River Ride	Wilkes YMCA	20 and 50 mile; benefits the Wilkes County Special Olympics cycling team	Tim 336-927-3168 tim@bmcc.us	http://www.bmcc.us/rrr.htm
Sep 20	Tour de Tuck	Sylva, NC	Mile options; 102 timed route or 60 ml.; 200 rider cap		http://www.tourdetuck.com/
Sep 20-21	Ride in the Heartland	Charlotte Court House, VA	Southside Virginia, hunting grounds of the Saponi tribes.	ncarwile@hotmail.com 434-248-6407	www.bikeheartland.org
Sep. 27-28	National MS	Greenville, SC	New location and more FUN!		www.nationalmssociety.org/ncp
Oct 4	Bike Stock	Mt. Airy, NC	Live bands; 70, 35 & 15 ml. options; Bike Safety Rodeo, ride on the Greenway	Macbeale@aol.com	http://www.bikestockfest.com/
Oct 4	Ride for Hope and Housing	Davidson, NC	Davidson Housing Coalition; Check out this ride.	Ann; 704-892-4486 info@davidsonhousing.org	www.davidsonhousing.org
Oct 4	Tour de Pumpkin	Rutherfordton, NC		Jerry 828-429-3900 posslqs@hughes.net	www.rutherfordoutdoor.org
Oct. 11	 Hog Jam Ride	Kershaw, SC	Charlie/Resa Blackmon hosts; 30 or 50 ml. options; BBQ at the Hog Jam	PH: 803 475 2039 Email: resab@comporium.net	www.tailwindtandemclub.com
Oct. 11	Tour de Pig	Lexington, NC	Ride options	Bill 336-956-2952 billpickett@lexcominc.net	www.barbecuefestival.com/sporting.html
Oct 12	Carl Anderson's Press on Regardless			John coastineditor@yahoo.com	http://www.gastoncountycyclists.com
Oct. 25	 Cotton Pick'n Bale	Stanfield, NC	Bill and Joyce Murphy, 30 & 50mls with potluck; see page 3 of this issue	Bill/Joyce - (704) 533-4799 wam-murphy@carolina.rr.com	www.tailwindtandemclub.com
Tandem Rally 2008					
Aug. 29-Sep 1	Midwest Tandem Rally	Springfield, IL	More info. to come		http://www.mtr2008.org/
Sep. 19-21	Southern Tandem Rally (STR)	Bowling Green, KY	More info. to come		http://www.gdrinc.com/str2008/

**Do you have a favorite ride you know about?
 Let your ride coordinator know so it can get posted.**

For more of 2008 rides posted to NC calendar visit:
<http://www.tailwindtandemclub.com/Ride%20Calendar2008.htm>

<http://www.crazyguyonabike.com/doc/jaybrosnan>

Prez. Jay's journal url for the next 3 months. Enjoy.....



TailWind Tandem Club

Non-profit Organization

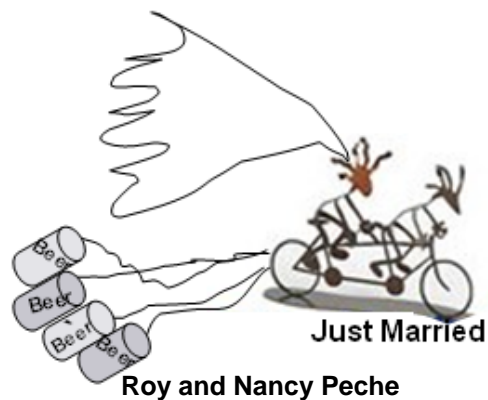
11918 Hookston Lane

Charlotte, NC 28273



.42¢

August 2008



<http://www.tailwindtandemclub.com>

Upcoming TailWind Rides Mark your Calendar

Oct. 11 – Hog Jam Ride - See page 3

Oct. 25 - Cotton Pick'n Bale Ride –
See page 4

Let's get a good showing of TailWinders

www.tailwindtandemclub.com

Maybe Prez. Jay will be back in town to
give us a low-down of his cross tour trip.

